

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS**

1. (Previously Presented) A method for providing an extensible educational system, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a user interface;

installing on a server a file compatible with a known application program interface (API), wherein the installed file utilizes the known API to modify the user interface for at least one user of the system;

invoking an enhanced system functionality by using the modified user interface; specifying in the file one or more roles of a user that can utilize the enhanced system functionality;

determining if the user has rights to utilize the enhanced system functionality based on the role of the user; and

if the user has rights, granting access to the user to utilize the enhanced system functionality.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of storing the one or more roles into a system data repository.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the enhanced system functionality is provided by at least one of a hyperlink and an icon.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the one or more roles comprise at least one of: user administrator, course administrator, system support,

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observer, support, portal administrator, system administrator, instructor, student and teacher's assistant.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of denying access to the enhanced system functionality if the user does not have access rights.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the file is installed on the server by using a Java archive file.

7. (Currently Amended) An extensible educational system comprising:

~~a user interface stored in a computer-readable memory~~ configured to store a user interface;

a plug-in manager configured to add new functionality to the extensible education system by modifying the user interface; and

an authentication user interface configured to verify a role of a user in the extensible educational system, and grant or deny a user access to the new functionality based on the role of the user in the extensible educational system, wherein the role of a user comprises at least one of: user administrator, course administrator, system support, observer, support, portal administrator, system administrator, instructor, student and teacher's assistant.

8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 7, wherein the plug-in manager and the authentication user interface are invoked using the user interface.

9. (Previously Presented) A method for providing an extensible educational system, the method comprising:

displaying a user interface;

invoking a plug-in manager configured to add new functionality to the extensible education system by modifying the user interface; and

invoking an authentication user interface configured to verify a role of a user in the extensible educational system, and grant or deny a user access to the new functionality based on the role of the user in the extensible educational system.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the role of a user comprises at least one of: user administrator, course administrator, system support, observer, support, portal administrator, system administrator, instructor, student and teacher's assistant.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the plug-in manager and the authentication user interface are invoked using the user interface.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the user interface is displayed by installing one or more files on a server.

13. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium, which when executed on a computer performs a method for providing an extensible educational system, the method comprising:

displaying a user interface;

invoking a plug-in manager configured to add new functionality to the extensible education system by modifying the user interface; and

invoking an authentication user interface configured to verify a role of a user in the extensible educational system, and grant or deny a user access to the new functionality based on the role of the user in the extensible educational system.

14. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 13, wherein the role of a user comprises at least one of: user administrator, course administrator, system support,

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observer, support, portal administrator, system administrator, instructor, student and teacher's assistant.

15. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 13, wherein the plug-in manager and the authentication user interface are invoked using the user interface.

16. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 13, wherein the user interface is displayed by installing one or more files on a server.